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REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-16 are now pending in the application, with Claim 13 being the only independent claim.

Claims 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,114,020 (Misuda et al.). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Misuda et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,175,133 (Smith et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent Claim 13, is directed to a process for producing a recording medium for ink-jet recording having an ink-receiving layer including a particulate material on a base material. The process includes the steps of grinding aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure and removing a coarse particle component by a separation treatment such that the average particle diameter of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure is at least 0.21 μm and at most 1.0 μm , and at least 90% of all particles of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure have a particle diameter of at most 1.0 μm , and applying onto the base material the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure subjected to the treatment of removing the coarse particle component with a binder. At least 90% by weight of the particulate material is the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure.

By making the average particle diameter of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure at least 0.21 μm , the ink absorbancy is sufficiently increased to prevent ink

from one dot from overflowing to mix with ink of another dot, which would otherwise occur to lower image evenness if the average particle diameter of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure is less than 0.21 μm .

The use of aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure can also be used in an ink-receiving layer to deal with the problem that an ink-receiving layer containing alumina hydrate having a pseudoboehmite structure is liable to crack. Conventionally sold aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure have been subjected to a sintering step in their production process. As a result, only particles with a large particle diameter are provided due to the particles aggregating during the sintering step. As indicated in Comparative Example 1 in Applicants' specification, a recording medium utilizing conventional aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure as a main component provides only images of low gloss. In contrast, the present invention can solve such problems by grinding the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure and removing a coarse particle component to obtain particles having a specific particle diameter.

The patent to Misuda et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest grinding aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure, as recited by Claim 13. Rather, this patent is understood to merely show the use of alumina hydrate of the trade name 520 manufactured by Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd., as discussed at column 4, lines 50 and 51. Page 3 of the Office Action cites Table 4 of the Hirose et al. patent to show that this alumina hydrate has a γ -crystal structure. But Table 4 of this patent merely lists the product " γ -Alumina sol (Alumina Sol 520, trade name, product of Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd.)". A definitive definition of the structure of Alumina Sol 520 can be found in the literature of its manufacturer Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd. Accordingly,

Applicants attach herewith a copy of a translation of a portion of a product brochure of "Alumina Sols" by Nissan Chemical Industries, Ltd. The table on page 2 indicates that Alumina Sol 520 has a boehmite structure.

Thus, the Patent Office is not understood to have satisfied its burden of proof to establish that the patent to Misuda et al. discloses or suggests grinding aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure, as recited by Claim 13. Therefore, for this reason alone, Claim 13 is not understood to be anticipated by the patent to Misuda et al.

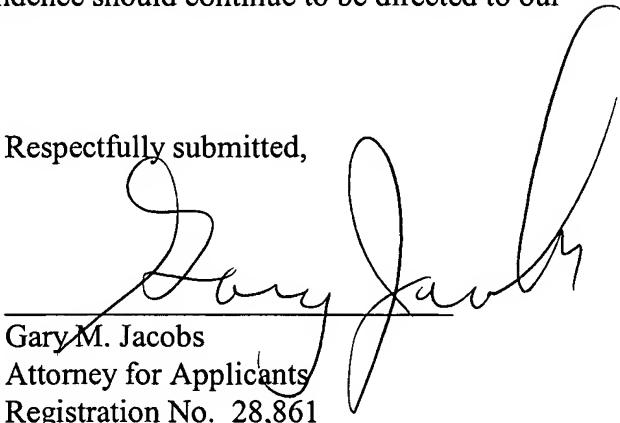
In addition, the patent to Misuda et al. is not understood to disclose or suggest that the average particle diameter of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure is at least 0.21 μm , as also recited by Claim 13. Therefore, for this additional reason, Claim 13 is not understood to be anticipated by the patent to Misuda et al.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 13. Dependent Claims 14 to 16 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. For example, Claim 15 recites that the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure is an alumina obtained by heating and calcining boehmite or pseudoboehmite. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Since the patent to Misuda is not understood to anticipate the claims of this case, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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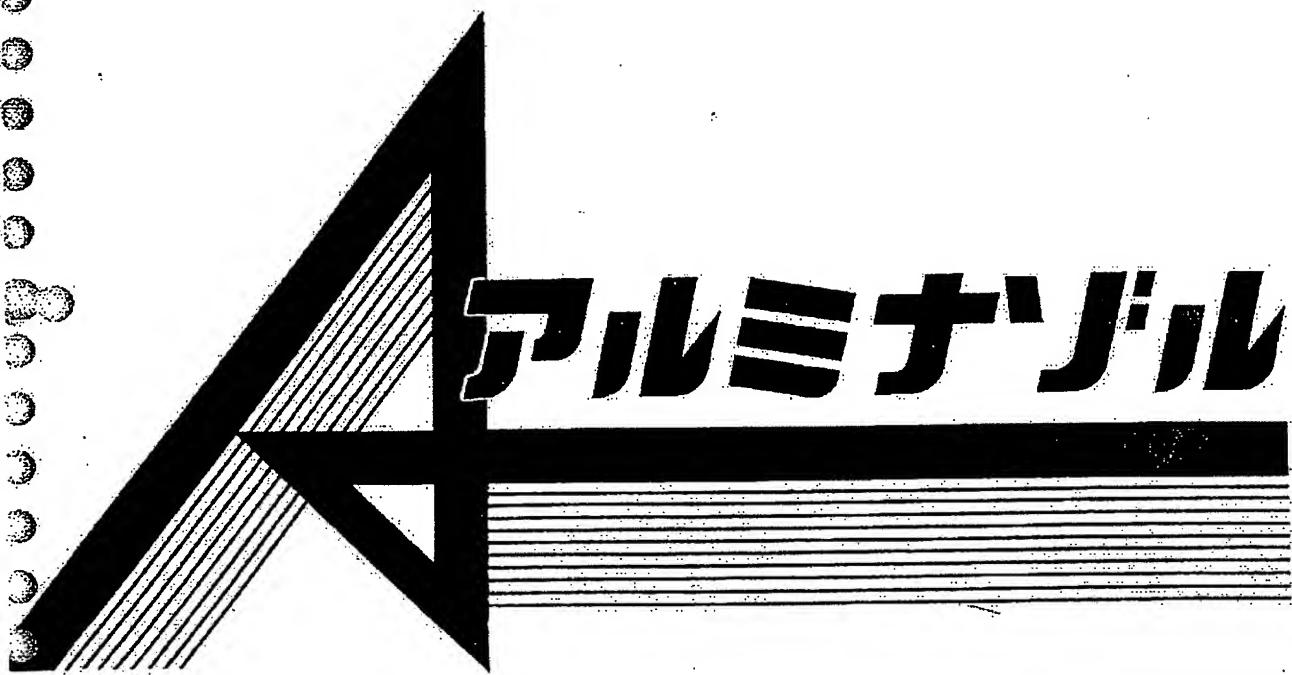
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Table on page 2 of the product brochure of "Alumina Sols" (translation)

	Alumina Sol 100	Alumina Sol 200	Alumina Sol 520
Al ₂ O ₃ (%)	10-11	10-11	20-21
pH	2.5-4.5	4.0-6.0	2.0-5.0
spec. gravity(20°C)	1.09-1.14	1.09-1.14	1.17-1.20
stabilizer	Cl ⁻	CH ₃ COO ⁻	NO ₃ ⁻
particle form	feather-like	feather-like	rod - particulate
particle size(avg.)	100mμ x 10mμ	100mμ x 10mμ	10-20mμ
s.surf.area(m ² /g)	300-500	300-500	200-300
particle charge	positive	positive	positive
crystal form	amorphous	amorphous	<u>boehmite</u>
color tone	milky white	milky white	clear milky white
stability	semipermanent	semipermanent	semipermanent
freezing temp. (°C)	0	0	0
visc. (25°C, C.P.)	100-10000	50-3000	5-50



日産化学



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はしおき

アルミニウムは水を分離膜としたアルミニナが初期(ペーマート系)のコロナ電極です。このアルミニウムは、我々が従来の技術でその製品化に成功し、既に20年以上の間多岐の分野にわたって極めて特徴ある効果を发挥し、幅広に愛用をいたしております。ここにその特徴と用途について、従来の技術に非づいた説明を申し上げ、各位の御多幸に供したいと存じます。

アルミニナルの種類及び性状

1. 種類及以一般性的狀

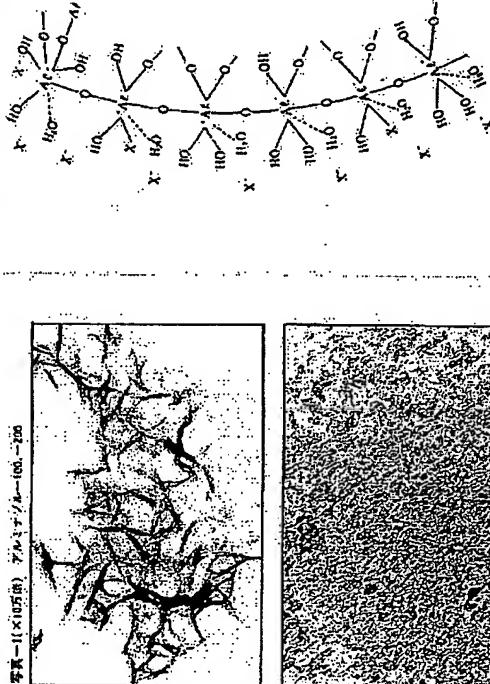
アルミニウムは被電解してての性質より、アルミニウム-100及びアルミニウム-300、アルミニウム-500の3種類があります。アルミニウム-100、-200は、その特性として、被電解性が強く、その特性はナトリウム性質をもつていて、一般的性質を下の表に示します。

2. 粒子の大きさ及び表面状態

アルミチャップは5mm×5mm×0.5mmのコロナバーチャルをもつアーバンミナス形状のヘーマタイトで、原鉱石がガルバの8%をもつ安定鉱として分離している褐色の鉱物がです。粒径の範囲は平均の0.05mm程度で、粒度は粒度選別によって決まり、粗粒は粒度の範囲

項目	電解液	アルミニウム—100	アルミニウム—200	アルミニウム—220
Al ₂ O ₃ (%)	10—11	10—11	10—11	20—21
pH	2.5—4.5	4.9—6.0	4.9—6.0	2.0—5.0
比 重 (20°C)	1.09—1.14	1.09—1.14	1.09—1.14	1.17—1.20
安 定 性	Cl ⁻	Cl ₄ COO ⁻	NO ₃ ⁻	NO ₃ ⁻
粒 子 形	粗 粒 状	粗 粒 状	粗 粒 状	细 一 胶 粒
粒子の大きさ(平均)	100 μm × 10 μm	100 μm × 10 μm	100 μm × 10 μm	10—20 μm
比 重(固形物)	300—500	300—500	300—500	200—300
粒 子 密 度	粉 性	粉 性	粉 性	粉 性
粒 子 形	無 定 形	無 定 形	無 定 形	無 定 形
色	調 乳 白 色	乳 白 色	乳 白 色	透明乳白色
安 定 性	半 永 久 性	半 永 久 性	半 永 久 性	半 永 久 性
水 溶 性(乙)	0	0	0	0
粘 度	100—10000	100—10000	50—50000	5—50

第二章 第一節 アルミニナジルの粒子及び塑性加工(セアル)



卷之三

1. 热的变化

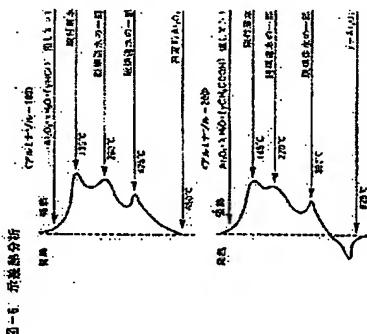
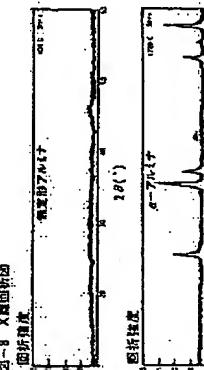


图-8 X维图析因



444. 有機酸との相溶性
アルギナートに有機酸を加えても、あらかじめ酸化しておいた場合は酸化によって過酸化水素が生成され、アルギナートの酸化が進行する。アルギナート-200によって過酸化水素を生成するアルギナート-100、アルギナート-200をアルギナート-200と比較して、その各々10倍の有機酸一水溶液が同時に混合せば、二者の相溶性は全く異なる。すなはち、アルギナート-100がアルギナート-200と相溶するが、アルギナート-200がアルギナート-100と相溶しない。このことは、アルギナート-200がアルギナート-100と相溶しないが、アルギナート-100がアルギナート-200と相溶するからである。一般的に有機酸等と相溶するアルギナート-200

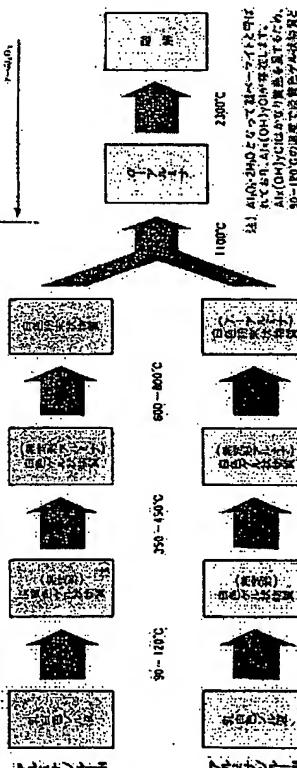
五、相溶性

（一）新規開拓の相違を
（二）新規開拓の相違を
（三）新規開拓の相違を

(22) 異常性疾患との相関性
 (23) ノニン系表面活性剤-108は良好な活性を示す。
 (24) ノニン系表面活性剤-100, アルミナゾル
 (25) ノニン系表面活性剤-100は良好な活性を示す。
 (26) ノニン系表面活性剤-100は良好な活性を示す。

支那の歴史

卷之二



引導者	月	90	60	70	60	50	40
水の供給量	g	10	20	30	40	50	

九月九日

4

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